



CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA

The **Miami Springs Education Advisory Board** met at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

The following were present: Chair Mindy McNichols
Vice Chairman, Eduardo A. Molliner
Libby Manning
Maria Mitchell (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)
Debra Sheridan

Also Present: Deputy City Clerk Suzanne Hitaffer

Chair McNichols welcomed everyone in the audience. She said that it is a pleasure to have students present because most of what the Board does involves the students in Miami Springs.

2) Approval of Minutes: January 20, 2009 Regular Meeting

Minutes of the January 20, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

Board member Manning moved to approve and Vice Chair Molliner seconded the motion, which carried 4-0 on voice vote.

(Agenda Item 3d was presented first)

3) Special Presentations

- a. Youth Advisory Council Discussion with Local Students

Chair McNichols stated that the establishment of a Youth Advisory Council is one of many provisions in the City's education compact, which is an agreement with Miami-Dade County Public Schools that includes goals the City would like to achieve in cooperation with the School District. The idea behind the Youth Council is for the City to receive input from the youth on a variety of issues and to develop civic involvement.

Chair McNichols referred to the City of Hialeah Code of Ordinance establishing their Youth Advisory Board. She explained that students were invited from each of the schools to participate in the meeting and present their ideas for the Youth Council for Miami Springs. She asked the students who were present from the High School to start the discussion.

Miami Springs Senior High School students Allison Parks of 236 Apache Street and Ethel Torrentes of 251 East 12th Street, Hialeah addressed the Board. They felt that the Youth Advisory Council is a good idea because it would allow kids to express their opinions and they are the ones who really know what they want.

To answer Board member Manning's question, Chair McNichols confirmed that the Youth Council would be required to meet in the Sunshine if it is an advisory board that is established by ordinance.

Board member Mitchell was concerned about the age difference between the elementary and high school members.

Chair McNichols noted that the City of Hialeah ordinance sets the age between fifteen and twenty-one and they meet monthly. It also requires an adult advisor who is appointed by the City Council who would be the board liaison.

Board member Mitchell thought that the intent was to give the students the opportunity to come to the Education Advisory Board meetings on a regular basis and let the Board know what they want the City to be involved with or what assistance is needed.

Chair McNichols felt that it would be better to have a more formal organization that is appointed and recognized by Council. She felt that without formal rules and regulations that the students would not participate.

Board member Sheridan added that being a member of the Youth Council would give the students resume and career opportunities, as well as volunteer hours.

Chair McNichols knows that in light of budget cuts, it could be expensive to implement a new Student Council and perhaps they could meet quarterly, before the regularly scheduled Education Advisory Board meetings. She suggested that they could meet more often as issues come up.

Board member Sheridan referred to page 5, item 4 of the education compact that specifically addresses the Youth Council stating, *“The City will build upon the current student leadership day and mock commission activities to develop a stronger youth civic engagement program within the city. The expansion will include, but will not be limited to, the development of a Youth Council and representation from the Youth Council on the City’s Education Advisory Board”*.

Vice Chair Molliner asked if members of the Youth Council must be enrolled in a public school.

Chair McNichols responded that the Board members could make a recommendation to the City Council. In her mind, she thought that the private schools should be involved as well. She said that it would also depend on the age recommendation because the two private schools only go up to the eighth grade.

Further discussion ensued regarding the formation of a Youth Advisory Council.

Miami Springs Middle School student Pablo Hernandez of 925 Hunting Lodge Drive stated that he is the eighth grade Student Council President and EESAC representative. He likes the idea of a Youth Council because most kids like the fact that they can be leaders who are involved.

Bethany Araque of 1240 Raven Avenue is in the fifth grade and represents Springview Elementary School. Taylor Delgado of 861 Wren Avenue said that she is also a fifth grade student at Springview Elementary.

Brent Cates of 326 Falcon Avenue stated that he is a fifth grade student at Miami Springs Elementary School and an EESAC member. He likes the idea of a Youth Advisory Council because the students could meet with students of other schools to compare ideas and see what problems they can fix.

Chair McNichols suggested that the Board members could continue discussing the Youth Advisory Council under New Business. She invited the students to attend future Education Advisory Board meetings and to bring forth issues that affect their school.

Vice Chair Molliner welcomed students and parents to bring their concerns to the Board at the monthly meetings and to spread the word to their classmates that this is a channel to bring forth their opinions.

Chair McNichols added that there is an upcoming Municipal Election and the students or parents could ask the candidates what their position is on education in Miami Springs and what they have in mind for the youth.

- b. State and Federal Legislative Report: Lisa Martinez, Intergovernmental Affairs and Grants Administration

Lisa Martinez, Intergovernmental Affairs and Grants Administration, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, stated that budget cuts of \$356MM had already been made. On March 3, 2009, the Legislative session convened and Governor Crist addressed a joint session outlining his visions for Florida.

The Governor's priorities included workforce initiatives, job creation and business development. He called on the Legislators to approve his \$66.5 billion budget. He is proposing an increase linked to education of \$183.38 to the FTE to be funded by the stimulus dollars. The current proposed budget is \$1 billion over the current year's budget and relies on \$4.7 billion stimulus dollars and \$500MM of anticipated revenue coming from casino gambling.

The issues related to the Governor's budget are that it underestimates the number of projected public school students statewide, it overstates general revenue to the State, it overstates property assessment value and it includes new revenue sources that are non-recurring to the State. The \$500MM may be recurring, but it is still new revenue and it is unclear whether or not it can be relied upon.

A revenue estimating conference was held on March 13th for the purpose of reviewing the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 fiscal years. For the last quarter of the fiscal year, the current state budget revenue estimates were \$1.1 billion less or a 4.9% decrease, compared to the November 2008 estimate. This means that it could potentially result in an additional budget cut during the last quarter of the fiscal year, according to Ms. Martinez. The state's projected revenues were reduced by \$2.3 billion for the 2009-2010 budget, which is a 10.6% decrease. In order to remain at current program levels the State will have to identify \$6.5 billion in new revenue sources to address current shortfalls.

Another key issue is the impact of the depreciation of the property values statewide, which is anticipated to continue decreasing up to 12 to 14%. The situation does not look good and it does not appear to be improving in the upcoming year, according to Ms. Martinez. The school district has done whatever possible to be able to prevent impacting the classrooms, but it is coming to a critical point that additional cuts could impact program services.

Ms. Martinez reported that the School Superintendent had approved support of the efforts of the P.T.A and they are traveling to Tallahassee. The position of the P.T.A. is to hold education harmless with no more cuts to public education and as a follow-up they will be holding four Town Hall Meetings across the District, one in each region, to bring back the message from Tallahassee and to talk about the difference avenues for parent advocacy.

- c. Miami Springs Compact Update: Lisa Martinez, MDCPS; Debra Sheridan Brinkman, Education Advisory Board

Ms. Martinez stated that she met with the Office of Data and Assessment and they are working to create a website for all cities in order to be able to have updates on a variety of data points. She referred to an analysis that is available on line that includes the number and percent of schools receiving letter grades, school performance grade and AYP status for 2004-2008, school demographics and the average of students working above grade level in reading, math and science, as well as results to key questions on the parent satisfaction survey. Once all the data points are finalized they should be able to compile an annual report to submit to the Education Advisory Board and City Council as a reflection of the compact measures.

Ms. Martinez explained that there was discussion during the last compact update regarding the variety of program offerings, including the International Baccalaureate (IB) and dual language programs, including the costs involved in order to bring these programs to the table. The Education Advisory Board had requested development of a procedure in order to determine community interest. In consulting with the Region, they were advised that the best way to gather information from the community would be to work closely with the P.T.A.

Ms. Martinez stated that Ann Thompson from the Office of Parental Involvement was able to coordinate a meeting with all the P.T.A. Presidents in order to discuss their potential interest in taking the lead in the coordination of collecting this information. She volunteered to create a draft survey that will be shared with the P.T.A. Presidents, District Staff and school principals and Compact Liaison Debra Sheridan.

Chair McNichols said that she would like to consider a way to reach out to parents who might not be thinking of sending their kids to Miami Springs Middle or High Schools and what programs could be offered that would change their mind. She suggested a similar survey could be provided to All Angels, Blessed Trinity and other private schools.

Board member Mitchell said that some parents may not realize that Miami Springs Senior High School is at half the capacity it was before. She felt that if this fact were to be publicized that more people might consider sending their children to the High School.

Board member Sheridan commented that the private schools may have a P.T.A. organization that could be provided with the link to the survey.

Ms. Martinez suggested that the survey could be placed on the City's website.

Ann Thompson, Office of Parental Involvement, stated that the EAB members had expressed their concern about promoting the use of the parent portal, which was one of her goals in meeting with the P.T.A. Presidents. They talked about the survey and sponsoring a day to inform parents about the available technology.

Principal Ennis has offered the Miami Springs Senior High School media center for the workshop, which will be good for the parents of feeder schools to see what a welcoming place the High School really is and a good environment. Contact was made with the Miami Springs Community Police regarding a presentation on Internet safety and Staff will be available all day to help parents to register for the parent portal. There will be presentations on the parent portal and resources that are available for parents on the internet.

Chair McNichols suggested that the Parent Workshop should be advertised in the Community Happenings section of the River Cities Gazette.

Vice Chair Molliner also suggested placing a notice on the Community Bulletin Board at the Circle.

Ms. Martinez stated that the EAB had requested information on the Executive Pass Program. Beulah “Boots” Richards from the Council for Educational Change (CEC) is here to make a brief presentation and explain how the EAB can help support the start of this program within the schools.

Boots Richards of 7824 S. W. 118 Court, Miami 33186, stated that after thirty-five years, she is a retired Miami-Dade County principal and educator. She is currently the coordinator for the Council for Educational Change of the Executive PASS program. Since one of the goals is community involvement, the Executive PASS program is one of the best ways to get business leaders involved with the schools.

Ms. Richards mentioned that a few of the Miami Springs’ schools are already involved. She mentioned that former Miami Springs Middle School Principal Dr. Gail Quigley is working as a consultant for the Executive PASS program. There are currently thirty-five partnerships throughout Miami-Dade County and each one is different because the model is determined by the school principal and the business leader.

Ms. Richards added that Dr. Quigley spoke with Mayor Bain who said that he is very interested in implementing the program in Miami Springs. She distributed a handout (attached for the record) explaining the program that is a non-profit organization that is partially funded from the Department of Education, as well as business donors. There is no financial commitment from the business partner and the business community should be involved with the schools.

Ms. Richards explained that in other cities the Mayors or the Chamber of Commerce had conducted a meeting to introduce the program. The Mayors usually invite the school Principals and business leaders to listen to a short presentation in order to generate interest in the program.

Ms. Richards informed the Board that she would be attending the Doral Rotary Club meeting this week, which is also a good way to promote the program. She added that Westland Hialeah High School is one of the schools involved in the Executive PASS program.

Chair McNichols commented that many businesses make donations through the Dade Partners Program, but the Executive PASS program seems to be a more focused and structured relationship with the schools.

Ms. Richards explained that a reception with the school Principals is not always necessary. She will call potential business partners who might be interested or the school Principals can also submit recommendations to her.

Chair McNichols said that Miami Springs is a small community and everyone knows most of the people involved with the Chamber of Commerce, which would be a good way to introduce the program.

Ms. Richards clarified that the PASS program was originally a \$100,000 donation from the business partner, which was matched by the Council through the Department of Education, but the Executive PASS program does not involve monetary contributions. She distributed sign up cards that can be completed by interested businesses.

Chair McNichols suggested that the first step would be for the Board to make a recommendation to Council to convene a meeting with the Executive PASS representatives and the school Principals, or the Rotary Club. She felt that the Mayor should be the City representative that schedules the meeting to introduce the program to the business leaders.

Ms. Martinez informed the Board that the cities of Hialeah, Miami and Doral have held receptions to be able to allow the Executive PASS program representatives make a brief presentation in order to determine who is potentially interested.

Board Member Sheridan would recommend a breakfast reception or meeting in the Chamber.

Board member Manning moved to recommend that the Mayor and/or Council facilitate a reception or breakfast to introduce the Executive PASS Program to potential business people in the community. Board member Sheridan seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on voice vote.

Ms. Martinez reported that she had the opportunity to work with City Manager Borgmann on a few items linked to out of school programming. There is an upcoming grant for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers that could potentially bring forward \$700,000 to the community for out of school programming. The City's Grant Writer and Parks and Recreation Staff are interested in exploring the funding and they will meet together on March 30th to discuss the potential collaboration.

To answer Chair McNichols' question, Ms. Martinez explained that out of school programming relates to holiday, after school, summer and weekend programming. The grant has recreation, arts and cultural, service learning, academic and tutoring components; it is a great funding source, but it is rigorous as far as performance outcomes and reporting measures and it is highly competitive.

Ms. Martinez explained that Green Policies and Healthy Living is another issue that is referenced in the education compact. A meeting is being coordinated with the City Manager and the Chairman of the Board of Parks and Parkways on April 6th to discuss potential policy ideas. She suggested that a Youth Advisory Board might be interested in this issue.

There was information requested on the Adult Education offerings, especially targeting the needs of the senior citizens, including a quick survey regarding community education offerings at the Adult Education Center and the Middle School, according to Ms. Martinez. She was told that if there is enough interest that a class on any topic could be coordinated.

Chair McNichols and the Board members expressed their support for the Driver's Education program. They would like to expand the program because there are only 30 slots for five high schools and the classes fill up quickly.

Ms. Martinez stated that she spoke with City Manager Borgmann regarding the Youth Council. There is a curriculum through the Social Studies Department called "Project Citizen" that the City of Miami Youth Council utilizes to be able to train the teenagers to address community issues and how to advocate for them. The City Manager offered to be the point of contact to follow up on the recommendations.

Ms. Martinez offered to present the next update in May since June would be the end of the school year.

Vice Chair Molliner acknowledged the work of Ms. Martinez because she goes above and beyond her scope of duties.

d. Academies at Miami Springs Senior High: Counselor, MSSH

Chair McNichols explained that there were some questions posed by the Education Advisory Board members, members of the community and students and parents regarding the requirement for students to declare a major and to enroll in particular academies.

Ms. C. Mills, Miami Springs Senior High School Counselor, distributed information regarding the academies that are offered at the high school and the majors within each academy, together with the subject selection forms.

Ms. Mills explained that prior to articulation when the students select their classes for the following year, PowerPoint presentations are made in the media center showing the students what credits are needed for graduation, followed by a review of the academies that are offered at the school. When the counselors sit with each individual student, they schedule their classes according to the graduation requirements first. After this is done, any space left in the schedule allows the student the opportunity to select an elective within the academy that they choose.

Ms. Mills clarified that this process is not mandatory, but it is highly encouraged because they want students to graduate with something besides their high school diploma, which is an extra certificate that can be added to their resume. For example, the Academy of Health Science and Medicine would benefit someone who wanted to become a personal trainer.

Chair McNichols was of the understanding that a student must declare a major, but they do not have to enroll in an academy.

Ms. Mills explained that students declare a major once they select the academy. Students declaring an academy are in grades tenth, eleven and twelfth; it does not apply to ninth graders.

Board member Manning thought that there was a new rule that applied to incoming ninth grade students, requiring them to declare a major.

Chair McNichols agreed that it is confusing because she was told that students have to declare a major, which can be changed every year.

Board member Sheridan stated that her son had to declare a major in ninth grade and after meeting with the counselor he selected Liberal Arts because none of the listed majors appealed to him.

Ms. Mills explained that there is new legislation requiring incoming students to declare a major, which they have at the middle school and it will be mandatory once students enter the high school.

Further discussion ensued regarding scholars academies and enhanced diplomas.

Chair McNichols suggested that it might help to conduct a survey in order to see how many students would be interested in a scholar's academy as opposed to the other academies.

Board member Manning said that there should be something to offer to those students who do not fit in one of the career academies.

(Maria Mitchell arrived at this time)

Principal Ennis offered to look into the matter of offering a scholar's academy.

Board member Manning stated that last year there was some confusion and she wanted to clarify the facts before articulation. The truth is that students do not have to pick an academy, but they were told to do so for data purposes.

Principal Ennis confirmed that students do not have to sign up for an academy.

Board member Manning asked about the World History requirement for ninth graders and if a non-honors class would be offered.

Ms. Mills explained that an incoming ninth grader is automatically placed in honors World History, there were no concerns this year and it actually helped to motivate the students.

Board member Sheridan was of the opinion that forcing students to take the honors class is not a good rule.

Principal Ennis responded that they are trying to bring rigor to the curriculum and raise standards. He stated that if there were enough concerned parents and students that he would certainly offer a regular World History class.

Board member Sheridan explained that when her son selected classes none of the academies met his needs, but she did not advise the school, because she knew the system. She said that one parent calling to complain is not a good representation of parent frustration. Her concern is that only offering honors or gifted in the Social Studies curriculum for ninth graders will disenfranchise students and parents may not notify the school.

Principal Ennis assured the Board that if they find there is a problem that an adjustment would be made to create sections. The intention is not to make children unsuccessful and there is major research to support raising the bar and raising rigor in terms of instruction and expectations for students.

Board member Mitchell stated that when honors is made a basic class, those kids who want to excel will not take honors, they will take advance placement (AP) classes, which brings down the system because they might not be able to pass an AP exam, which is very rigorous.

Chair McNichols has received comments from parents whose children attended private schools and they were automatically placed in intensive reading and math upon entering the public high school because they have never taken the FCAT.

Ms. Mills explained that kids who were registered in private schools were given a special date in the summer to be tested.

Ms. Mills announced that articulation with the current ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students is finished and they will meet with the seniors next week for a final credit check.

On Thursday, March 26th there will be a presentation for students at Miami Springs Middle School and they will receive their subject selection form, which must be returned in one week. On March 25th, elective teachers and department heads will go to the Curriculum Fair at the Middle School for the eight graders. She will make the presentation on March 26th.

Ms. Mills explained that she is preparing flyers for all the private schools advising students of a special day they can come to the High School with their parents to tour the school, become familiar with the guidelines and receive a registration packet.

4) Individual School Reports

Principal Sally Hutchings from Miami Springs Elementary reported the following:

- Construction for the kitchen A/C condensing units is expected to come to completion. She thanked the Miami Springs Middle School Principal and Staff for their assistance in cooking the food. The entire project is scheduled to be finished April 23rd.
- Students are forming a marching band that will play recorders along with two drummers that will participate with the Chorus in the end of the year parent presentation.
- The P.T.A. is sponsoring FCAT “Chill Out” day with an ice cream social on March 26th.
- Articulation will be held on Wednesday, March 18th, focusing on the last nine weeks.
- Field trips include going to the Youth Fair and St. Augustine.
- The “Dolf-fit Kid” Program on April 3rd will emphasize physical fitness and positive life styles.

Principal Mayte Dovale reported the following for Springview Elementary:

- Principal Dovale acknowledged the Science Teacher of the Year, Math Teacher of the Year, Employee of the Year and the winner of the Uni-Vision award.
- Construction is going as planned and the completion date was moved from March to April due to a delay with permitting.
- Events include Black History Month and Movie and Popcorn night.
- Students tested for the FCAT and the SAT.
- Individual meetings were held with every fifth grade student to set goals and discuss FCAT strategies concerns.
- Comparisons with base line tests and the last monthly assessment indicates increases in every area. Credit is given to the effort that was made to improve attendance.
- Staff is participating in a spinning and physical fitness boot camp as part of the healthy initiative.
- An author will visit the school on March 26th to sign and sell books with donations going to the Media Center.
- A fifth grade dance is scheduled for March 20th and Field Day begins on March 31st for the fourth and fifth grades.

- 50% of the parents who responded to the survey support the continuation of the Bilingual School Organization (BISO) program in the Middle School.

Miami Springs Middle School Principal Maria Mason reported the following:

- The school is conducting make up FCAT testing, 100% of the 6th graders were tested and 99% of the 7th and 8th graders were tested.
- The beautification project is being led by P.T.S.A. President Bob Schultz and his wife. She thanked them for their hard work to beautify the patio area.
- April 24th is National Arbor Day with the Mayor and the P.T.S.A. present.
- A “Meet and Greet” is planned with the other P.T.S.A. representatives for Springview and Miami Springs Elementary schools.
- Articulation with the elementary schools will begin the week of March 30th.
- Three students won the excellent medals in the 55th Regional Science and Engineer Fair.
- The Math Club continues to be successful at high school competitions under the direction of Ms. Manning.
- The Miami Springs Women’s Club will host the Election Forum in the school auditorium on Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00 p.m.
- Staff will meet with District personnel at Springview Elementary to discuss the BISO program.
- Social Studies teacher Darryl Baker received the Excellence in Education award from Governor Crist.
- Student Ryan Bermudez is the County first place winner in the 50 and 100 yard dash.
- The Varsity and Junior Varsity boy’s softball teams placed 2nd in County Championships.
- The girl’s softball team is the County Champion.
- Blue and white polo shirts and khaki pants were selected for the school uniform. The policy allows “T-Shirt Friday”. Shirts will be sold by the P.T.S.A.

Miami Springs Senior High School Principal Thomas Ennis reported the following:

- Two students were selected to participate in the Fairchild Garden contest and honorable mentions went to both.
- The symphonic band received a superior rating at a recent state competition.
- The Golden Girls dance team placed third and fourth place in the Florida State Dance Championship.
- Four students were finalists in the Miami-Dade County David Essner Math Competition. Evan Williams placed third overall, receiving a full tuition scholarship at the University of Miami, in addition to a plaque, check and a book. Anthony Fernandez placed eight, Oscar Sanchez placed twelfth and Tyler Thomas placed fifteenth. All boys are seniors and members of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society.

- Football player Derek Jones received a \$125,000 scholarship from FIU.
- Amy Rodriguez and Stephanie Barrios are finalists in the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce of Miami Health Care Heroes award.
- Ruben Canserna was awarded third place in the recent Shakespeare Festival monologue and received a full scholarship to Southern Methodist University.
- The Anchor Club won nine awards
- The Girl's Soccer team won the 2nd GMAC Championship and participated in the final State Championship.
- Wrestler Matthew Barria finished fourth place in the State tournament.
- There were eight Silver Knight nominees.
- Attendance for the math and reading FCAT was excellent in all grades ranging from 97% to 100%.
- The production of "Fiddler on the Roof" will run Wednesday and Thursday, March 18th and 19th with shows scheduled at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Chair McNichols would like the City Council to recognize the students for their sports and academic achievements. She asked for recommendations that would be presented to the City Manager.

5) Old Business:

5a. ERP/BOSS Status Report

Vivian Pardo from the North Central Region Office reported that the ERP/BOSS program was discontinued and the School District kept the basic program that will be implemented in phases. The concern is the agreements that were made between the ERP/BOSS and the students, which the School Superintendent is aware of. She does not know how the issues will be resolved.

Chair McNichols mentioned that the agreement was that the portables would be removed when the project left the site.

Ms. Pardo offered to check on the status of the portables. Based on the current economic situation, she suggested waiting to make the decision until the enrollment for next year is determined.

Board member Sheridan commented that she would still be interested in pursuing the idea of what was promised in terms of mentoring students in the field of technology.

5b. Construction Project Updates

Chair McNichols stated that the construction project updates had been presented during the Individual School Reports.

6) New Business:

6a. Youth Advisory Council: Next Steps

Chair McNichols asked if the Board members had any recommendations for the proposed Youth Advisory Council.

Further discussion ensued and the Board members exchanged their ideas regarding the structure, duties and responsibilities for proposed Youth Council.

Board member Mitchell felt that the focus should be on resolving problems or community needs rather than on the individual school achievements.

Board member Manning suggested that the Principals could submit a list of the school achievements in writing, which would shorten the duration of the meetings.

Chair McNichols said that the Principals could be asked to bring forward issues, rather than reporting on the achievements.

Vice Chair Molliner felt that it would be appropriate for the P.T.S.A. representatives to bring forth their concerns rather than the Administration.

Miami Springs Senior High School P.T.A. President Ruth McNaughton reported on various improvements, including the re-striping of the crosswalks by Miami-Dade County Public Works. She explained that the P.T.A. initiative was parent involvement and Ms. Thompson from the Office of Parental Involvement agreed to schedule one day at the school for her staff to introduce the parent portal.

Ms. McNaughton expressed her concern because her son was forced to take intensive reading and math at the High school because he previously attended a private school and did not take the FCAT.

Further discussion ensued regarding the school policy regarding academies and the private school students who transfer to the public schools.

Ms. McNaughton was of the opinion that the solution would be to inform parents who have kids in private school that they need to sign up to take the FCAT.

In regard to the Youth Advisory Council, Ms. Mitchell suggested that the P.T.A. Presidents be allowed the opportunity to express their concerns at the EAB meetings.

The Board members **agreed** to schedule a separate agenda item for the P.T.A. Presidents to express their concerns or recommendations to the EAB.

Board member Sheridan offered to ask Lisa Martinez for information from other communities that have Youth Advisory Councils.

The Board **agreed** to gather more information on the Youth Advisory Council.

6b. International Baccalaureate Program

There was no further discussion regarding this item.

7) Other Business:

Vice Chair Molliner reported that the City of Sunny Isles Beach has a program where students are invited from the school to read with the Mayor and Council. He thought that this would be a good program for the City.

Chair McNichols thanked each Board member for their participation and input to the Education Advisory Board. She mentioned that there is an upcoming election and the current Board members should notify the newly elected officials that they would like to continue serving on the Board.

8) Adjourn

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Hitaffer
Clerk of the Board

Approved as written at meeting of: 4-21-2009

The comments, discussions, recommendations and proposed actions of City Citizen Advisory Boards do not constitute the policy, position, or prospective action of the City, which may only be established and authorized by an appropriate vote or other action of the City Council.
